

CASE STUDY

Creating a Space for Reflection at Campbeltown Hospital



IDENTIFYING THE NEED

At Campbeltown Hospital, staff had long hoped to improve the appearance of the main entrance, where a small, grassy area sat unused and uninviting. When Campbeltown Community Council approached the hospital with a wish to donate a memorial bench in honour of the late Cathie Duncan, a much-loved community member and supporter of the hospital, it presented the perfect opportunity to create something special, a welcoming space for patients, visitors, and staff to enjoy.

THE CHALLENGE ON THE GROUND

The site beside the entrance was uneven and lacked purpose, with no seating or shelter for those visiting the hospital. Staff often commented that the area did not reflect the warmth and pride of the hospital or the strong community spirit of Campbeltown itself.

The challenge was to transform this overlooked space into a meaningful and accessible garden that could be used by everyone, while also serving as a fitting tribute to Cathie and her lasting contribution to the local community.

HOW WE RESPONDED

In 2025, using donations of £9,396 made to the hospital, the staff team worked with a local company to design a new memorial garden. The project involved clearing the ground, laying new foundations, installing accessible pathways, planters, and seating, and introducing a range of native, scented plants chosen to attract butterflies and bees. A carved sculpture, originally donated during the COVID pandemic, was thoughtfully incorporated into the garden's design, linking together moments of kindness and remembrance.

The new garden centres around the memorial bench donated by the Community Council in memory of Cathie Duncan.



THE CHANGE WE ACHIEVED

The transformation has had an immediate impact. The once-unused space is now a bright and welcoming garden regularly enjoyed by patients, visitors, and staff. The Community Council expressed their delight at how the area now serves as a fitting tribute to Cathie, and staff have shared how the improved entrance has lifted morale and instilled a renewed sense of pride in their workplace. What was once described as "scruffy and neglected" has become a place of calm, reflection, and connection.



Community council members were joined by hospital staff and some of Cathie's family and friends for the unveiling on 28 June 2025. Photograph: Kenny Craig, [West Coast Today](#).

THE JOURNEY AHEAD

The memorial garden now stands as a lasting symbol of partnership between the hospital and the community it serves.

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“There has been a lot of positive feedback from staff as well as community members.” Gillian, NHS Staff Member

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The Charity would like to thank the Campbeltown Community Council, whose generosity inspired the partnership that brought this project to life, and whose thoughtful donation of a memorial bench honours the memory of Cathie Duncan, for her warmth, dedication, and tireless support for the people of Campbeltown. Her legacy will continue to bring comfort and connection to all who pass through the hospital doors.